

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

No. I.—ON THE FORMS OF THE HIMALAYAN SEROW
CAPRICORNIS SUMATRÆNSIS.

(With 2 Plates.)

In 1913 there was an article by Mr. Pocock in the Society's Journal (J. B. N. H. S., xxii, p. 296) on the serows, and in this article the author reviewed the forms of the genus *Capricornis*, and treated them all as sub-species of *sumatrænsis*.

In his "Summary of the Indian Manual Survey" (J. B. N. H. S., xxvii, p. 80) the late Mr. R. C. Wroughton has retained the same key and subdivision, which I repeat.

KEY TO THE FORMS OF *Capricornis sumatrænsis*.

A.—Head, body and limbs not all red,

a. Head and body brownish black or black.

a1. Legs white or dirty white below the knee.

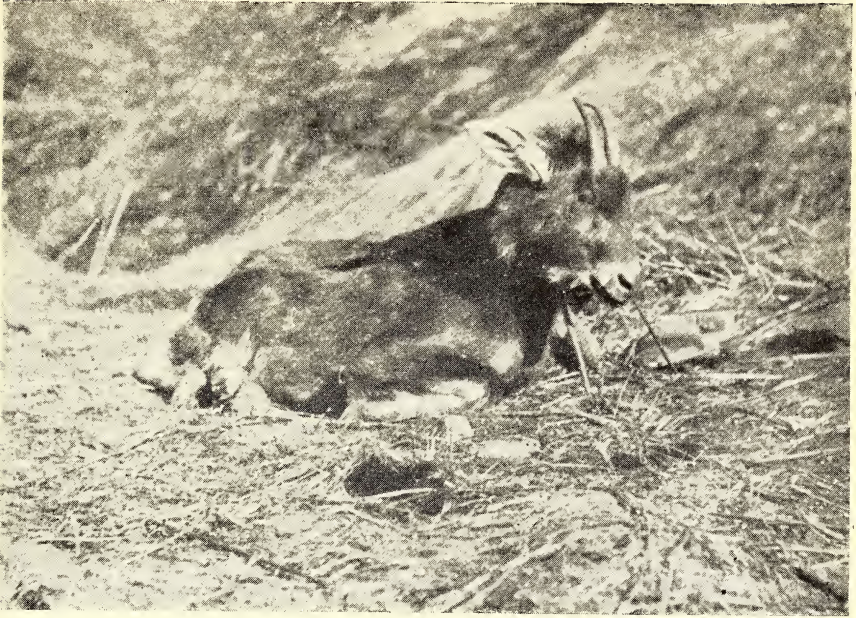
a2. Belly only a little paler than the sides, their colours blending; much less white on the jaw, throat, and breast 1. *s. thar*, Hodgs.2. Belly white, sharply contrasted with the rufous brown of the sides; much white on chest and along lower jaw 2. *s. rodoni*, Poc.

b1. Legs with a considerable amount of rusty or yellow below the knees and hocks.

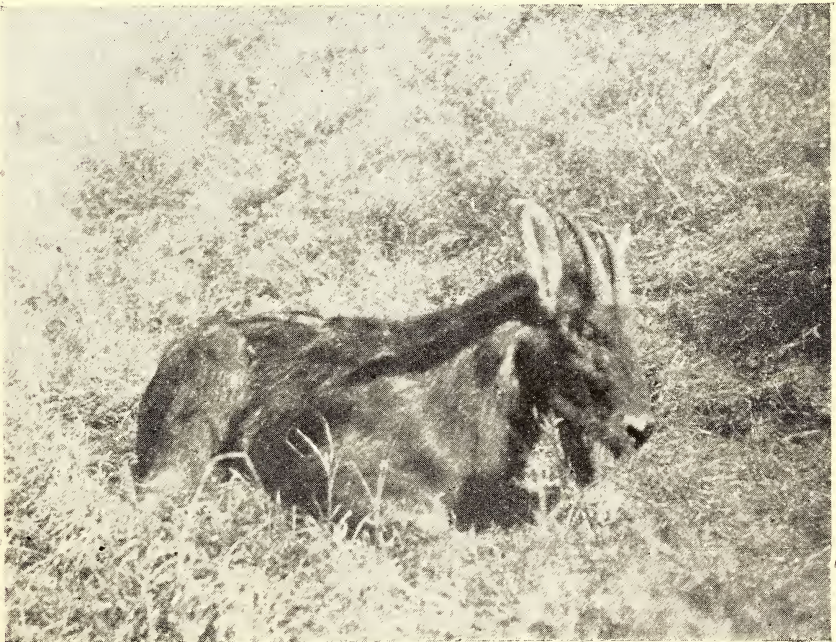
a2. Legs below knees and hocks all rusty; body brownish black 3. *s. milne-edwardsii*, Dav.b2. Legs below knees and hocks rusty fawn; knees and fetlocks white; body jet black 4. *s. jamrachi*, Poc.b. Head pale chocolate brown, body probably that colour also, and legs probably white below the knee 5. *s. humei*, Poc.B.—Head, body and limbs all red 6. *s. rubidus*, Bl.

Distribution

1. *C. s. thar* *Type locality*:—Nepal. (Hodgson).
Other localities:—Sutlej Valley, Kumaon: Nepal; Sikkim (B.M.)
Lectotype:—B.M. No. 43.1.12.89.
2. *C. s. rodoni* *Type locality*:—Chamba State, Punjab. (Rodon.)
Other localities:—None.
Type:—B.M. No. 2.12.11.1.
3. *C. s. milne edwardsii*. *Type locality*:—Moupin, Sze Chuen.
Other localities:—Sze Chuen; Pegu; Moulmein; Mount Muleyit; Tenasserim (B.M.); N. Shan States Pegu (M.S.I.)
4. *C. s. jamrachi* *Type*:—Perhaps in Paris Museum.
Type locality:—Kalimpong, Darjiling.
Other localities:—Kurseong, Darjiling (B.M.)
Type:—2.10.12.1.



FEMALE SEROW, Kishtwar, Chenab Valley, April 1911.



OLD MALE SEROW, Kashmir Valley, October 1922.



Large female Kashmir Serow showing white area on the undersurface of the jaw.

5. *C. s. humei* *Type locality* :—Kashmir. (Hume).
Other localities :—Pir Panjal, Kashmir. (B.M.).
Type :—B.M. No. 91. 8. 7. 65.
6. *C. s. rubidus* *Type locality* :—Arakan.
Other localities :—Arakan (B.M.)
Type :—Not traced.

The above key struck me at the time of its first publication as most unsatisfactory, and, in particular, the description of *C. s. humei*, based on one 60-year old headskin only, as being quite unwarranted.

I have now collected particulars of 23 specimens of serow, as under :—

- (1) An adult female shot by me in Kishtwar, and another adult seen at the same time.
- (2) Eleven headskins, five of which had the body skins with them, of 7 males and 4 females, examined in the shops of Srinagar skin curers. All these came from the Kashmir Valley, and included specimens from the Liddar, Sind, and Bandipur rivers, and one from the Pir Panjal.
- (3) Three headskins, 1 male and 2 females, shot in Chamba in the same month : all adults.
- (4) A careful examination of seven living serow in the hills a few miles N.E. of Srinagar. These seven individuals comprised three adult males, three adult females, and one young one which I judged to be 6 months old. I shot the oldest male. This was during last October (1922).

I will first take the descriptions of the individuals coming under (1) and (4), as offering no chance of the skins having been discoloured or faded in any way :

- (a) My own serow skin. The old male shot under (4). Shot Oct. 1922.

Description.

Legs white below knees.

Belly white.

Back and sides black, merging into rufous on rump, lower shoulders and thin band above white of belly.

Tail black above, white below.

Head and neck black, with small patches of white on angle of jaw and throat.

- (b) The female shot under (1)

This animal agreed very much with the old male, except that she had no rufous colour on the buttocks and more on the sides, while she had very little white on the jaw-bones, but a large patch on the chest.

It would be expected, if Mr. Pocock's description of *C. s. rodoni* were a good one, that this female, being shot 200 miles nearer Chamba (in fact not 30 from Chamba State) would have shown the "much white" on the lower jaws described by Mr. Pocock as being characteristic of *C. s. rodoni*.

- (c) Again the adult male seen at the same time as (b) had no white on the jaws, but had a large patch of white on the chest. In other respects he corresponded with (a).

- (d) Of the remaining six living individuals examined last October, the two old males corresponded in body colouring to (a) but while one had a considerable amount of white on jaws and chest, the other and older animal had a very small patch of white on the chest and none on the jaws. The older male appeared to be the same age and size as that which I shot, and had the same amount of rufous on the buttocks, the youngest of the three having a much greater proportion of black in his colouring.

The two females seen had no rufous on the buttocks, only on the thighs and lower shoulders, and a thin band along the side merging into the black of